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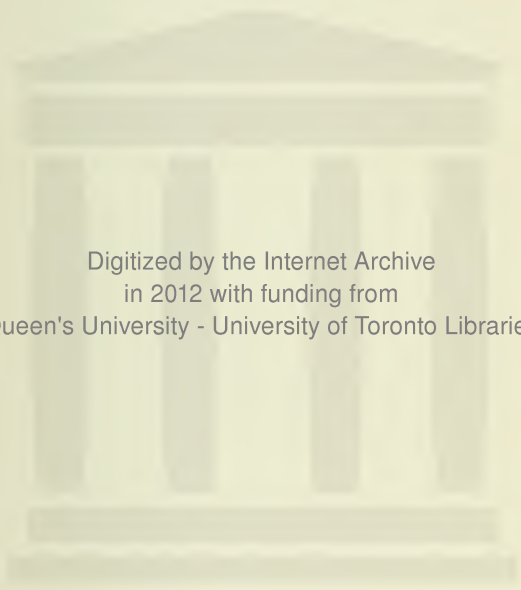
1840

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# REPORT

(1399A)

OF THE

**T E R R A C E**

## COMMITTEE,

OF MONTREAL, LOWER CANADA,

FOR 1840.



MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY CAMPBELL & BECKET.

1840.

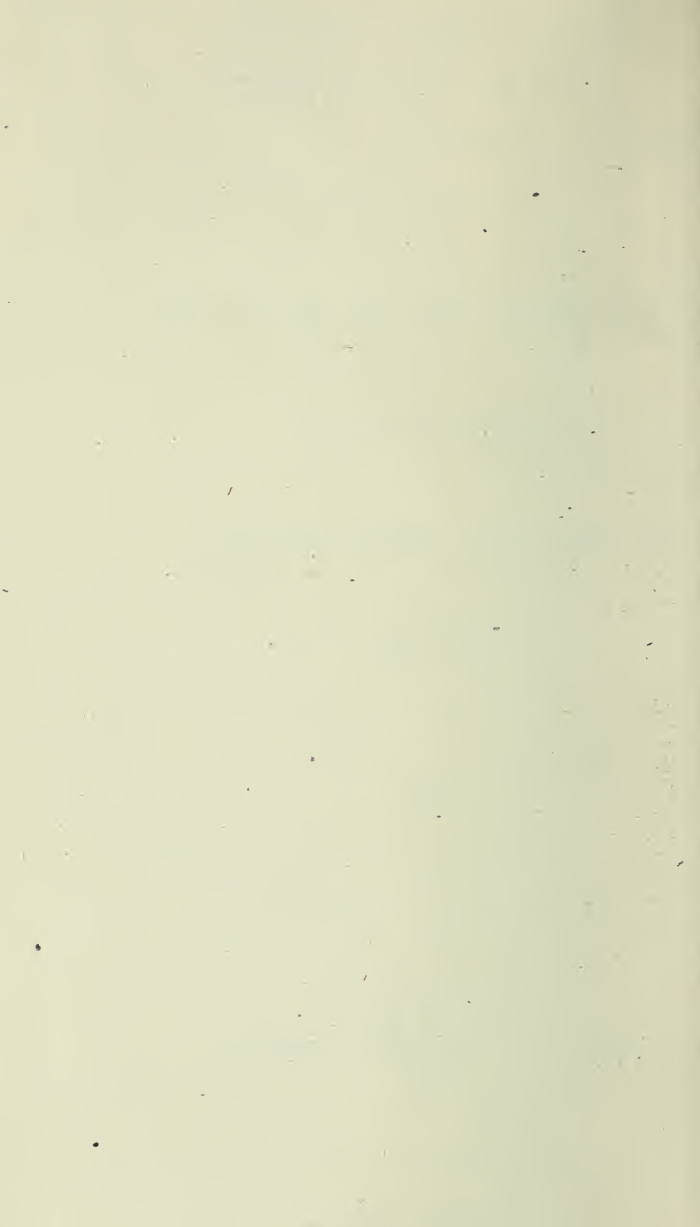
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## IMMIGRANT COMMITTEE.

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A NUMEROUS Public Meeting of the most influential citizens of Montreal, was held in the News Room, on the 19th December, 1840, the Mayor of the city in the chair, for the purpose of receiving the following Report, and hearing an address from Dr. ROLPH, of Upper Canada.

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### R E P O R T .

THE law which constituted an Immigrant Committee in Montreal, and furnished them with funds for their operations by means of an Immigrant tax, expired on the first of May last, and with it all legal provision for the relief of destitute Immigrants.

In the spring of this year the number of Immigrants which arrived was large, and many of them were so poor and unable to provide for themselves by reason of age, infirmity, or families of young children, that they must have become a grievous addition to the pauper population of Montreal, had they not been sent on to their friends in the interior of the country.

In these circumstances, the necessity of taking prompt measures to relieve the destitute strangers, who were fast arriving amongst us, and thereby save the city in a great measure from pauperism, and probably from disease, was taken into consideration by some public spirited individuals, and a meeting was held which resulted in the appointment of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, as an Immigrant Committee, with instructions to raise funds among the citizens by subscription, and apply them to the relief of necessitous and helpless Immigrants, viz :—





Jacob Dewitt, Adam Ferrie, Captain Maitland, John Mathewson, John Dougall, John E. Mills, James R. Orr, James Thomson, John Keller, Eben. Muir, and James Court.

The monies were as follows :—

The Governor General.....	£50	0	0
The Bank of Montreal.....	50	0	0
Gillespie, Moffatt & Co.....	50	0	0
Forsyth, Richardson & Co.....	50	0	0
Hon. Peter M'Gill.....	50	0	0
Hon. Joseph Masson.....	50	0	0
J. G. M'Kenzie & Co.....	50	0	0
Tobin & Murison.....	50	0	0
John Torrance & Co.....	50	0	0
William Ritchie & Co.....	50	0	0
John Molson.....	50	0	0
The City Bank.....	50	0	0
The Bank of British North America.....	50	0	0
Frothingham & Workman.....	25	0	0
Shuter & Glennon.....	25	0	0
Charles Brooke.....	25	0	0
M'Pherson Crane & Co.....	25	0	0
Henderson & Hooker.....	25	0	0
H. Jones & Co.....	25	0	0
E. Hackett & Co.....	25	0	0
Murray & Sanderson.....	25	0	0
Atkinson & Co.....	25	0	0
Logan, Cringan & Co.....	10	0	0
John E. Mills.....	10	0	0
John Dougall.....	10	0	0
Benjamin Holmes.....	10	0	0
Robert Froste.....	5	0	0
Benjamin Hart & Co.....	5	0	0
R. & H. Corse.....	5	0	0
Robert Armour.....	5	0	0
M'Intosh & Co.....	5	0	0
Lieut. S. Whitelaw, 73d Regiment.....	27	12	7

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£967 12 7

The Committee engaged suitable servants, and commenced their sittings on the 11th of June last, in the office formerly occupied by the Immigrant Committee, by law appointed; where they continued daily (Sundays excepted) throughout

the season, to receive and decide upon all applications for assistance.

The result of their labours will be seen in the following tables:—

Return of Immigrants Forwarded and Relieved by the Society, commencing 11th June, 1840, and ending with the close of the Navigation.

<i>Where sent.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Expense of Transport.</i>
To Bytown.....	6101	£ 0 0 0
— Kingston .....	1116	0 0 0
— Carillon .....	16	0 0 0
— St. John's .....	96	0 0 0
— Laprairie .....	18	0 0 0
— Prescott .....	30	4 16 8
— Cornwall .....	131	28 19 10
— Beauharnois .....	19	0 0 0
— Glengarry .....	12	0 0 0
— Chateauguay .....	8	8 2 6
— Huntingdon .....	5	
— Lachine .....	9	
— North River .....	5	1 5 0
<hr/> Total Forwarded.....		7566
Total furnished with Lodgings and Provisions .....		1941
<hr/> Total Relieved.....		9507
		£43 4 0

<i>Age.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Natives of</i>	<i>No.</i>
Above 60 years .....	201	England .....	322
— 40 do .....	823	Ireland .....	8778
— 20 do .....	3257	Scotland.....	397
— 14 do .....	1634	Germany. ...	10
Under 14 do .....	1281		
— 7 do .....	1624		
Infants .....	587		
	<hr/> 9507		<hr/> 9507

Number of Births in Sheds ..... 9  
 Number of Deaths in do ..... 15

Bibles distributed ..... 76  
 Testaments ..... 41

And a large quantity of Religious and Temperance Tracts.







## EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE IMMIGRANT COMMITTEE IN 1840.

Provisions given to Immigrants in Sheds and when Forwarded, viz., 365 cwt. Oatmeal .....	£206	2	6
Bread and Sundries .....	14	9	7
Allowed to sick and convalescent persons, by order of the Physician superintending, 46½ lbs. tea, 230½ lbs. sugar, 706 loaves bread, 837 lbs. beef, 293 quarts milk, and sundries, amounting in all to.....	42	16	5
Paid for transportation of Immigrants on routes other than Ottawa and Rideau Canal, as per Table .....	43	4	0
Paid for passage of Immigrants who arrived after the close of Rideau Canal .....	6	0	0
Paid for ground rent of office, two years .....	20	0	0
Paid Superintendent, Clerk, and Messenger's Salaries	107	10	0
Paid to relieve cases of distress before the formation of the Committee, and for Stationery, Bedding, Whitewashing, and a variety of miscellaneous items	56	18	3
	£497	0	9
Balance in the hands of B. Holmes, Esq., Treasurer.	470	11	10
	£967	12	7

Several entries in these Tables require explanation.

1st, The Committee incurred no expense in forwarding Immigrants by the Ottawa and Rideau Canal to Upper Canada, because all who were recommended by the Committee for free passage by that route were forwarded by the Government Emigrant Agent, Mr. Allison, although in this, as in other cases, the relief required in the shape of food, lodging, &c. was supplied by the Committee. It may here be added, although not connected with the labors of this committee, that Mr. Allison forwarded and otherwise relieved a large number of Immigrants before the Committee commenced operations. Indeed, without the liberal and efficient aid of Government, (for which permanent legal provision should be made) the means at the disposal of the Committee must have proved totally inadequate to meet the emergency.

2d, The Immigrants, whose immediate destination was Bytown or Kingston, were with few exceptions bound for places in the interior of the country.

3d, It will be seen that more than a third part of the whole number were under fourteen years of age, and consequently unable to provide for themselves, whilst more than the half were from fourteen to forty, and therefore likely to add immediately to the productive labor of the

country: but of this last class the greater proportion were females, as able bodied men were not forwarded at the public expense, unless burdened with helpless families.

4th, The provisions furnished, though a very necessary, constituted in fact but a small part of the relief afforded to Immigrants. The shelter in the Immigrant Sheds, which are spacious and well situated, both as respects the distance from town and proximity to the Canal, and to a shallow part of the river St. Lawrence, suitable for washing and bathing, was very important for the comfort, health and morals of the Immigrants, who never fail to be contaminated when thrown into the sinks of pollution, which often go by the name of taverns and boarding houses in a large city.

5th, The sick and the infirm were superintended by a physician appointed to that duty by Government, and a part of the sheds was devoted to their use, where they received such care and attention as could, under the circumstances, be bestowed. Such as laboured under serious diseases were sent to the Montreal General Hospital; a very excellent and well conducted institution.

The following is a table of the number of Immigrants who have arrived annually at the ports of Quebec and Montreal, with the number relieved by the Immigrant Committees from 1831 to 1840, inclusive:—

<i>Years.</i>	<i>No. of Immigrants.</i>	<i>No. relieved.</i>
1831 .....	49250 .....	4622
1832 .....	51422 .....	10244
1833 .....	22662 .....	7802
1834 .....	30217 .....	2529
1835 .....	11580 .....	4544
1836 .....	27513 .....	8722
1837 .....	21852 .....	9353
1838 .....	2938 .....	1255
1839 .....	7261 .....	2933
1840* .....	23190 .....	9507
	<hr/> 247885	<hr/> 61511

It will be seen that although in each of two preceding years, viz. 1831 and 1832, more than double the number of Immigrants arrived, yet if those assisted by the Government Agent previous to the 11th June be taken into account, a greater number have been relieved in this than in any former year. And it is important to trace, as far as

\* Number of Arrivals to October 27.





possible, the consequences of this more effectual measure of relief.

1st, The Immigrants themselves were greatly benefited by being sent off immediately, as they were thereby not only saved from the danger to their health and morals which would have been incurred by remaining any length of time idle in a large city, but their time was economized, which is the most important consideration of all, when the necessity of making preparations for the rigours of a Canadian winter is considered. Such was the desire of the Committee to expedite emigrants, that in some instances they were sent off from Montreal, and actually on their route to Upper Canada within thirty-six hours of their arrival in Quebec; and in all instances delay was as far as possible avoided.

2d, The city has not suffered either from the pauperism or sickness which have sometimes resulted from masses of destitute Immigrants having been thrown upon its streets.

3d, The prompt relief and correct and disinterested advice, as well as the kind attention and consideration constantly given by the Committee and their servants, as well as by the Government Immigrant Agent, to the wants and wishes of the Immigrants, could not fail to produce a favorable impression on their minds; and will consequently, through their representations to their friends in Britain, be likely to increase immigration in future.

For all these reasons, it appears desirable that a like measure of relief should continue to be extended.

The Government Emigrant Agent, Mr. Allison, has obligingly furnished the following particulars respecting the past season, which are inserted here with a view to make this report as complete as possible.

Government has incurred an expense of about £3500 through their Immigrant Office in this city, in forwarding to Upper Canada, poor emigrants to the number of about ..... 8625

The number of Emigrants who have proceeded to

Upper Canada at their own expense is about ..... 7013

The number employed in the District of Montreal as labourers is ..... 2807

And as house and farm servants ..... 2096

The number of artizans and their families..... 976

— 5879

Total..... 21,517

This table accounts for nearly the whole immigration of 1840.

It may be urged, and truly, that public charities have a tendency to make paupers; but the relief hitherto afforded and recommended to be continued to Immigrants cannot be classed with the ordinary modes of bestowing charity. 1st. Because the poor Immigrant who transports a family from a part of the British Empire, where they are perhaps burdens to society, to another nearly 4000 miles distant, where they will become productive, is doing a service to the country as well as to himself and family, and therefore has a sort of claim for public assistance.

2d, A free passage from his port of debarkation to the interior is a favor which he will never have occasion to ask for again; and therefore it may be granted without any danger of forming in him habits of dependence on others.

The Committee cannot close this report without pressing upon the attention of the British Government and its Emigrant Agents, as well as upon all Emigrant Associations, in Great Britain and Ireland, and the Emigrants themselves, the incalculable importance of selecting good vessels for their conveyance across the Atlantic. It is a fact which would scarcely be credited in a civilized and Christian country, did we not see it verified, year after year, that vessels, when they are past service for the conveyance of merchandize, are employed for the transportation of human beings.

A great proportion of the Immigrants who arrived this year were from ten to fourteen weeks on their passage, besides perhaps waiting at the port of embarkation from one to four weeks for the sailing of the vessel; whereas, had the vessels been of the first class, (such as the very excellent and fast sailing vessels of Messrs. Pollock, Gilmour & Co. of Glasgow, which come out annually in ballast,) and had they kept their day of sailing, the Immigrants might have been set down in Montreal in four or five weeks, on an average, after leaving their homes, with much more comfort and less risk of disease and shipwreck. And the difference to the Immigrant family who leave their homes in the beginning of April, whether they arrive in the early part of May or in July, is incalculable. In the first instance the provisions and money provided for their journey prove ample, and they reach their destination in time to make all necessary arrangements for the winter. In the second, their provisions are exhausted long before they reach America; they have to buy from the master of the vessel at exorbitant









rates, and they very often suffer from disease, and are consequently detained at the quarantine station, so that those of them who survive arrive sickly and penniless in Montreal in the months of August or September, become a burden on the public, and only reach their destination when it is too late for them to make any arrangements for the current season; so that the whole year is lost, and they are probably necessitated to resort to begging as the only means of support during the winter.

In this connection, it may be proper to state, that several frauds have been committed upon Immigrants by the owners or charterers of vessels, by collecting an Immigrant tax from their passengers in Britain, which has ceased to be levied in this country, and refusing to refund the same; and also by paying pounds currency of this Province instead of pounds sterling, in cases where Captains were entrusted with money to be paid to their passengers on landing. Also by charging exorbitant rates for provisions, which Immigrants were compelled to purchase, because of the extraordinary length of the passage, and delay in sailing after the time fixed.

It may be added, that passengers have a legal right to remain forty-eight hours on board the vessel after arrival in port. That all who come to Quebec only, should tranship themselves and effects at once on board a steamboat, which seldom fails to come alongside, and thereby save all delay and expense of landing. That immediately on arrival in Montreal they should apply to the Government Emigrant Agent, if in want of advice or information, and not listen to the representations of interested individuals. That they should bring no luggage with them but such as is absolutely necessary. And finally, that they should endeavour to reach their place of destination as soon as possible.

As this report is chiefly intended for circulation in Britain, it may be proper to add, for the encouragement of such as may intend to emigrate to Canada, that the political excitement in this country is completely allayed, and consequently the troubles have ceased. That many public works are now going on, where labourers are constantly wanted, and fair wages, say about 3s. per day, are given. That the charge for passage not only to Quebec, but from Quebec to Montreal, and from Montreal to Kingston and other places, is moderate, and likely, from the competition of rival Steamboat and Forwarding Companies, to be unusually low in 1841; and that owing to the very abundant crops of 1840, provi-

sions of all kinds are and will be very cheap; also that many descriptions of tradesmen, more especially Coopers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, and Masons, as well as Farm Servants, are in great demand.

Immigrants intending to bring money to Canada, should lodge the same in some well known Bank, such as the Bank of Ireland, the British Linen Company, the Bank of Liverpool, or Smith, Payne, and Smiths of London, and receive an unstamped certificate of deposit or letter of credit on the Montreal Bank, which will be cashed at Quebec or Montreal, or at the Bank of the People, Toronto, Upper Canada, or its branches at Kingston, Bytown, Cobourg, Hamilton and Amherstburgh, at the current rate of exchange, say generally from 8 to 10 per cent. premium, besides the difference of currency, which is one ninth. The same remarks will apply to the Bank of British North America, and its branches in Britain, and the Canadas: as well as to the Bank of Upper Canada, whose Agents in Britain, are Glyn, Halifax, Mills and Co. London, and the British Linen Company, Scotland, and to the Commercial Bank of Midland District, Kingston, whose Agents are the London Joint Stock Bank, Commercial Bank of Scotland, and Boyle, Low, Pim & Co., Dublin. Messrs. Glyn, Halifax, Mills & Co. London, will also receive deposits for the Montreal City Bank, which has an Agency in Sherbrooke, Eastern Townships. It will be more convenient to invest small amounts in sovereigns, which can always be changed at about the same rate of exchange, say from 24s. to 24s. 6d. currency for each.

The Committee in gladly bearing witness to the improved appearance and habits of Immigrants (more particularly those from Ireland) this year, as compared with former years, owing in their opinion to the progress of the Temperance reformation, would take the opportunity to impress upon the minds of all who intend coming to this country, the propriety and importance of abstaining from all intoxicating drinks, in order that they may be safe from the most fatal and destructive enemy of settlers in Canada, viz: Intemperance.

It has always been the anxious desire of the members of the Montreal Immigrant Society, that the Immigrants should feel convinced of the friendly disposition of the people of this country towards them; that their destitute situation meets with sympathy; and that advice and relief will be extended to them; in order not only to discharge the duties of hospitality towards strangers, but to encourage Immi-





gration, and thereby convert the boundless forests of Canada into fruitful fields; afford an extensive market for British manufactures in exchange for the grain and provisions raised here; encourage British shipping, and bind this colony with the British Isles, in the golden chain of interest, and the silken cords of love and affection.

JACOB DEWITT, *Chairman.*

JAMES COURT, *Secretary.*

Moved by Mr. A. H. ARMOUR, seconded by Mr. J. G. M'KENZIE.

1. *Resolved*,—That the Report now read be adopted and printed under the direction of the Committee.

Moved by Mr. T. B. ANDERSON, seconded by Mr. H. L. ROUTH.

2. *Resolved*,—That the thanks of the meeting are due, and are hereby given, to the gentlemen composing the Immigrant Committee, for the zeal and ability displayed by them in the performance of their arduous duties, and that the same gentlemen be requested to continue in office for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number, viz., Messrs. Adam Ferrie, Jacob De Witt, John Dougall, J. Mathewson, J. Thomson, Laprairie, James Court, J. R. Orr, B. Holmes, Captain Maitland, John E. Mills, John Keller, and E. Muir.

Moved by Mr. J. DOUGALL, seconded by Mr. J. MATHEWSON.

3. *Resolved*,—That Dr. Rolph, by his able and unwearied advocacy of a systematic plan of Immigration, has conferred a great benefit on the Provinces; and that the thanks of this meeting, on that account are due, and are hereby given, to that gentleman.

Dr. ROLPH then delivered a very eloquent Address, which was warmly applauded. And it was—

Moved by Mr. JOHN COLLINS, seconded by Mr. C. D. SHAW.

4. *Resolved*,—That it be recommended to the inhabitants of this city, in imitation of the liberal conduct which has marked other places, to commence a subscription for the purpose of affording some suitable remuneration to Dr. Rolph for his valuable services.









